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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies	2
2.	Arab Institute for Human Rights	5
3.	International Conference Volunteers	7
4.	Organisation internationale pour le droit à l'éducation et la liberté d'enseignement	9
5.	Partage	11

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1. Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies comprises more than 100 francophone non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations, all working in the areas of human rights, peace, solidarity among peoples, environmental protection or sustainable development. This grouping of organizations is representative of French civil society.

The Committee's main objectives are to disseminate information on the views and work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to convey the needs of populations and to offer suggestions to the United Nations. Its member NGOs and associations meet regularly during the General Assembly each year and are authorized to speak on behalf of the Committee at some national and international events.

II. Contribution of the Committee to the work of the United Nations

2005

In 2005 the Committee established an excellent working relationship with Mr. Jean-Pierre Bugada, of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, who is responsible for activities in France and Monaco. The Committee became a member of the committee on the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations.

May: The Committee co-organized the ceremony for the award of good citizenship prizes in Paris. These prizes are awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves through their spirit of honesty, civic duty and dedication in the personal, professional and organizational spheres.

July: The Committee organized and led a panel discussion in Paris on the topic "Volunteerism in 2005: how will it contribute to the future of society?", following up on the 2004 conference held at UNESCO on the theme "North and South Values", with the participation of André Lewin, President of the Association Française pour les Nations Unies.

September: The Committee's Under-Secretary-General represented it in Ouagadougou at the fifth conference of international non-governmental organizations, held at the initiative of the International Organization of la Francophonie in order to provide an opportunity for representatives of civil society to express their views and formulate proposals, particularly on the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted to the meeting of Heads of State in Bucharest in September 2006.

October: To mark the arrival in Rome of the President of the United States of America, in the framework of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, the President of the Committee wrote an open letter to the President, asking him to do all in his power to ensure that the United States ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the invitation of the representative of the United Nations

Regional Information Centre, the President of the Committee participated in the Women's Forum in Deauville (France).

2006

January: The Committee organized a panel discussion in Paris on the topic "United Nations reform and the role of NGOs".

March: The Committee, in partnership with the French Bar Association (*Ordre des avocats*), organized a tribute in Paris to the Nigerian lawyer Hauwa Ibrahim for his work in defending women sentenced to stoning for adultery, including Amina Lawal, who was sentenced by a Nigerian Islamic court. The Honorary President of the Committee addressed a letter to the President of Nigeria, urging him to make every effort to put an end to such barbaric practices.

June: The Committee organized a humanitarian symposium in Paris, bringing together some 30 prominent writers, including Stéphane Hessel.

November: The Committee participated in the International Solidarity Fair, held in Paris, which focused on partnership between national institutions and international non-governmental organizations and on support for young people wishing to become involved in international solidarity work.

2007

January: The Committee organized a debate in Paris on the topic of social cohesion in order to gather ideas and draw up proposals to be submitted to the official within the French Ministry of Labour, Social Relations, Family Affairs, Solidarity and Urban Affairs who is responsible for issues relating to social cohesion and helping society to break the cycle of violence.

March: The Committee observed the one hundredth anniversary of Scouting at the Armenian Cathedral of Paris.

September: For the International Day of Peace, the Committee participated in the Day of Francophone Notaries in Paris, which brought together participants from 23 African countries to discuss "Microeconomics and legal certainty". From the exchange of experiences and lessons that took place during this formidable gathering of key figures from numerous countries there emerged, with crystal clarity, a guiding principle capable of unleashing energies and opening up the possibility for even the poorest among us to build their future. Awareness of the most fundamental rights of freedom of the person demonstrates the urgent need for access to a secure legal system — the foundation of democracy — such as that promoted by the notary profession and the values of the French-speaking world.

December: The Committee participated in the observance of International Volunteer Day in Paris with the aim of promoting the activities of the many volunteers involved in French volunteer organizations (an initiative of the Fédération française de l'encouragement du dévouement et du bénévolat).

2008

January: The Committee's president participated in the meeting of the Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg (France).

February: The Committee was represented at the nineteenth International Human Rights Competition for Lawyers in Caen (France) and participated in the meeting of States in Monaco aimed at saving the planet.

May: The Under-Secretary-General of the Committee attended the sixth conference of NGOs convened by the International Organization of la Francophonie in Caraquet (Canada). The purpose of the conference was to inform Heads of State of the 70 member States of the International Organization of la Francophonie of what civil society expects with respect to cultural diversity, democracy and the rule of law, protection of the environment and good governance, in preparation for their meeting in Quebec (Canada) in October 2008.

June: The President of the Committee spoke at a round-table meeting, in Paris, on development of Mediterranean countries (Mediterranean African Coalition (MEDAFCO) Development) and at one on the Mediterranean countries at the Institute of Political Science of Paris.

July: The Committee organized a colloquium on the dehumanizing effect of exposure to violence, held at UNESCO.

September: The Committee participated in the sixty-first Annual DPI/NGO Conference, held at UNESCO, which commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It organized a meeting in Paris on two topics: "cooperation of civil society and parliaments to enhance quality of life and respect for human rights" and "strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations and parliaments in promoting civic participation and human rights". The Vice-President of the Committee organized a conference in Paris on "food and legal security: women's rights to resources, technology, credit, and commerce", with the participation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Conseil International des Femmes Francophones and the International Union of Notaries. Proposals relating to security of land tenure, the status of women farmers in third-world countries and the immediate recognition of pre-eminence of statutory law over customary law were submitted to the Chief of the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. The Committee organized a good citizenship and solidarity awards ceremony in Paris, which was attended by Mr. Bernard Miyet, a former high-level official of the United Nations, and Mr. François Zimeray, French Ambassador for Human Rights. It also participated in the inauguration of the European Centre of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS-Europe) in Marseille (France).

October: The Vice-President of the Committee participated in an event on the Millennium Development Goals at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris and the Committee submitted proposals to Mr. Alain Joyandet, Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophonie.

November: The Committee participated in the first awards ceremony for the regional student citizens cup, held at Charléty stadium in Paris and attended by a thousand students from the Île-de-France region. The theme of this event was "doping and equal opportunity in sport".

December: In the framework of the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, the Committee, in partnership with the Paris Bar Association, organized a debate in Paris, following a screening of the film "The Agronomist", and at the same time celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of its own founding.

2. Arab Institute for Human Rights (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Objectives and mission of the organization: The Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) is a regional non-governmental organization whose mission is to promote the principles and foster a culture of human rights in Arab countries, based on the principle of universality and indivisibility of human rights, as articulated in international documents, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various international human rights instruments. It seeks to accomplish its mission primarily by conducting training for civil society organizations and public officials and by carrying out activities aimed at introducing human rights education in formal education systems.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies: (a) the thirteenth workshop on dissemination of a culture of human rights in Asia, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and held in Beijing (August-September 2005); AIHR participated as an observer; (b) the second Arab conference on a culture of human rights, organized jointly by OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the League of Arab States and the Qatar National Human Rights Commission (Doha, March 2006); (c) a regional conference on the role of national human rights institutions in the Arab world, organized jointly by OHCHR, UNDP, the League of Arab States, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Human Rights Council of Egypt (Cairo, March 2005); (d) a conference on women's rights in the Arab world, organized by the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights in collaboration with UNDP (Sana'a, December 2005); (e) the second Arab civil society forum on children, organized by the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), UNICEF and UNDP (Cairo, November 2005); (f) a conference on the cultural rights of refugees, organized by the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Beirut, December 2005); (g) the second Arab women's democracy forum, organized by the Sisters' Arab Forum with support from the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the International Federation for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Sana'a, November 2006); (h) the International Conference on "Democracy and Human Rights in Africa: Role of Human Rights Institutions", organized by UNESCO and the National Human Rights Council of Egypt (Cairo, December 2007); (i) the thirty-fourth session of the General Conference UNESCO (Paris, November 2007); (j) a regional workshop on democratic reforms in Arab countries, organized by the Arab NGO Network for Development and United Nations Democracy Fund (Beirut, October 2008); and (k) participation — and presentation of a paper on cultural rights and the universality of human rights — by the president of the Institute in the general debate of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Geneva, May 2008).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and programmes: (a) a regional conference on education for human rights, organized in collaboration with UNESCO, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization

(ALECSO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and held in Hammamet (Tunisia), February 2006; (b) a workshop and discussion on the revision of laws relating to AIDS in the Arab countries and the right to health, organized jointly with UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), OHCHR and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and held in Cairo in November 2005; (c) a regional master's programme on the human rights of the child, organized between 2005 and 2007 in collaboration with UNICEF and the University of Lebanon; attended by students from various Arab countries; (d) a training-for-trainers session on the rights of the child, organized jointly with the Regional Office of UNICEF and held in Amman in April-May 2006; (e) a training session on international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, organized by AIHR in conjunction with the Tunis office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and held in Tunis in October 2006; (f) a training programme on human rights for personnel from Iraqi non-governmental organizations and some Iraqi ministries, conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Jordanian Centre for Human Rights and with support from the United Nations Office for Project Services, and offered from November 2006 to April 2008 in Amman; the programme comprised 11 training sessions on human rights, women's rights, investigations, awareness-raising and public relations campaigns, and management of non-governmental organizations, and also included training-for-trainers sessions; (g) annual regional training sessions on human rights, carried out with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner; four sessions were held between 2005 and 2008 in Hammamet, Tunisia; (h) a training and discussion workshop on international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, organized jointly with UNHCR and held in Tunis in October 2006.

As part of its efforts to promote international human rights instruments in the region, the Institute organized the following activities: (a) a training session for Arab lawyers on human rights instruments and mechanisms, international criminal justice and transitional justice (Beirut, February 2006); (b) a training session for judges on access to justice in the field of economic and social rights (Hammamet, Tunisia, March-April 2006); (c) two discussion and training workshops on the preparation and implementation of national human rights action plans (Rabat, February 2007 and Tunis, December 2007); (d) a regional training session for Arab judges on international and regional human rights protection mechanisms (Hammamet, Tunisia, March-April 2008); (e) a workshop on tools and methods for grass-roots training on human rights, organized in collaboration with OHCHR and the Bahrain Human Rights Society (Manama, Bahrain, January 2005); (f) a training session for the local media on international human rights mechanisms and instruments, organized with support from UNDP and in collaboration with the Bahrain Human Rights Society and the Ministry of Information (Manama, Bahrain, January-February 2005); (g) a training session on electronic media and human rights, organized in collaboration with Internews and the United Nations Information Centre in Tunis (Hammamet, Tunisia, February 2005); (h) a training session for Maghreb journalists on economic, social and cultural rights, organized in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Tunis, November 2007); (i) a study on cultural rights in Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, conducted between 2007 and 2008 in collaboration with UNESCO in the framework of the social sciences activities of UNESCO and the UNESCO/ISESCO Arab Research-Policy Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ARADESC).

3. International Conference Volunteers (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

International Conference Volunteers is an international non-profit organization specializing in the area of communications, particularly languages, cyber-volunteering and conference support. Through its volunteer services it helps organizations that do humanitarian, social, environmental and medical work to execute projects and to organize local, national and international conferences. It works with volunteers and prepares social and educational programmes in order to help local populations and communities develop. It plays an important role in promoting volunteerism by encouraging citizens to get involved, connecting organizations, individuals and communities and by following their efforts in this area.

Scope: ICV is based in Geneva and, since 2005, it has been an international federation with offices and representatives in several other countries, including France, Spain, South Africa, Mali, Japan and Brazil.

Vision and mission: ICV seeks to build a better world by sharing knowledge and learning through volunteer services. Its mission is to provide development and commitment opportunities at the personal and professional level through volunteer services and to go along with partners in the execution of social and educational programmes through field work and networking.

Network of Volunteers: In January 2009, the ICV network had 10,861 volunteers, from 179 countries and speaking 163 languages. Since 2005, some 140,000 hours have been contributed free of charge for social and humanitarian projects.

II. Contribution of ICV to the work of the United Nations

United Nations meetings (selection): ICV works with a number of non-governmental organizations, associations and structures. Between 2005 and 2008 it collaborated closely with the following United Nations agencies and entities: (a) the Commission on Human Rights (now the Human Rights Council); (b) the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); (c) the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; (d) the World Health Organization; (e) the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); (f) the World Meteorological Organization; (g) the International Organization for Migration; (h) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); (i) the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); (j) the International Telecommunication Union; and (k) the United Nations Office at Geneva.

ICV contributed to the following initiatives: (a) Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (UN-GAID); (b) Internet Governance Forum (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 2007, and Hyderabad, India, December 2008).

ICV attended meetings related to the following thematic issues: information and communication technologies, children and youth, citizenship and governance, demining, education, the environment, family, human rights, humanitarian affairs, indigenous peoples, information, work, least developed countries, media, migration,

new world institutions, peace and security, population, refugees, science and technology, social development, sustainable development, fiscal policy, United Nations reform, values, volunteerism, women, trade and development, extreme poverty and health.

ICV participated in a number of events, including the following: (a) preparatory process and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Tunis, in November 2005; ICV was the contact point for the WSIS "Volunteer Family"; during phase 2 of the Summit, ICV was co-Secretary of civil society together with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and the NGO Liaison Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; statement by the Executive Director of ICV, Ms. Viola Krebs, at the Summit; (b) for the follow-up to the Summit, ICV was co-moderator of action line C8 on linguistic diversity in cyberspace under the auspices of — the World Network for Linguistic Diversity (Maaya) founded in the context of phase 2 of the Summit in Tunis, in December 2005 and (c) the Executive Director of ICV has been a member of the UN-GAID Strategy Council since 2008.

III. Cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies and meetings related to thematic issues

(a) Human rights: Commission on Human Rights: drafting of reports and minutes with non-governmental organizations in relationship with the United Nations, 2005-2006; participation in the launching of the new Human Rights Council in September 2006 in Geneva; (b) health and cooperation with WHO; implementation of the Africa@home project which aims, inter alia, to fight malaria; contribution to the organization of a number of conferences relating to health, including the Geneva Health Forum and the Forum Santé, organized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in September 2006 and May 2008 in Geneva; (c) UNESCO: since 2006 participation in the organization of parallel events to the International Mother Language Day (February) at UNESCO through the World Network for Linguistic Diversity, for which ICV currently acts as secretary; and (d) International Campaign to Ban Landmines: ICV has, for years, supported organizations involved in that campaign.

In addition ICV and its conference volunteers helped organize a series of conferences on the following thematic issues: health (13 conferences and meetings); the environment and UNDP (11 meetings); anti-personnel landmines (5 conferences and meetings) human rights (13 conferences and meetings); intellectual property and WIPO (3 conferences and meetings); children and youth (6 conferences and meetings); microfinance (1 meeting); social development (12 conferences and meetings); volunteer service (6 conferences and meetings); science and technology (14 conferences and meetings); trade and development (10 conferences and meetings); extreme poverty (2 conferences and meetings); migration (2 conferences and meetings); governance (2 conferences and meetings).

Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals: ICV is engaged in specific activities to advance the achievement of the MDGs. For example: Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger): actions: Project E-TIC (information and communication technologies) to better inform pastoralists and farmers in the West African subregion (Senegal, Mali); Goal 2 (Achieve universal primary education):

actions: collecting textbooks from various schools in France and Switzerland; shipping them to French-speaking Africa (Guinea, Mali, Senegal); supporting the desert school situated 120 km from Timbuktu , Mali, for classroom furnishings and teaching; facilitating twinning between schools in various countries; training volunteers involved in school projects; Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability): actions: campaigns to raise awareness among students in public and private schools about the environment and sustainable development; launching of green maps for development participation in the following international days or years: International Mother Language Day, 21 February; World No Tobacco Day, 31 May; International Day of Peace, 21 September; International Volunteer Day, 5 December; ICV also participated actively in the implementation of the International Year of Languages 2008 in collaboration with the World Network for Linguistic Diversity and UNESCO in Paris, and with the Swiss Commission for UNESCO based in Berne.

4. Organisation internationale pour le droit à l'éducation et la liberté d'enseignement OIDEL (Special; 1989)

I. Introduction

The goal of OIDEL is to advance the right to education and freedom of education according to the principles of article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It seeks to (a) study educational policies according to a human rights-based approach; (b) intervene in international organizations and human rights bodies to uphold and promote the right to education and educational freedoms; (c) inform public opinion of progress and violations in respect of the right to education and freedom of education; and (d) provide training and information on the right to education and freedom of education to stakeholders.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The organization has followed all the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and its advisory committee since the creation of the latter two. It has taken the floor on the following issues: right to education, information society, teaching of human rights, rights of the child, impact of the crisis on economic, social and cultural rights, human rights education, mainstreaming women's human rights and the gender approach and the right to human rights education. Some of its statements were made in cooperation with other NGOs, inter alia with the NGO platform for human rights education and the NGO caucus on diversity and cultural rights. It has regularly followed the sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A list of the main written statements in the subsidiary bodies of the Council are as follows: (a) joint written statement with the caucus on diversity and cultural rights concerning the timeliness of a mandate on cultural rights (Geneva, March 2005); (b) joint written statement in the Human Rights Council on

human rights education (Geneva, June 2006); (c) joint written statement on the promotion and protection of all human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development (Geneva, Human Rights Council, February 2008); (d) participation in the one-day general debate on the right to culture organized by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; OIDEL presented a written communication on culture and education (Geneva, May 2008); (e) organization, in cooperation with OHCHR and the Observatoire de la diversité et des droits culturels, of a meeting on follow-up to the Commission on Human Rights resolution concerning cultural rights (Palais des Nations, Geneva, October 2005); (f) presentation, with the interdisciplinary Institute on Ethics and Human Rights of the University of Fribourg, of the declaration on cultural rights, the presentation took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in May 2007 in collaboration with OHCHR and the International Organization of La Francophonie; (g) joint reply to the consultation by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General concerning the question of the defamation of religions in Geneva in January 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations and specialized agency programmes

OIDEL works closely with UNESCO, exchanging information and maintaining a consultative relationship with it: (a) in cooperation with an NGO platform, OIDEL organized a parallel meeting during the 48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE), on the theme "right to an inclusive education, implications, problems and challenges" (Geneva, November 2008); (b) participation in the UNESCO General Conference, statement at the informal information meeting on preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the recommendation on the same subject, and presentation of the publication *Education et discrimination* at UNESCO headquarters (Paris, October 2005); (c) drafting of a paper on international standards regarding free primary education (2005); (d) participation, at the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, in the colloquium on the Organization's standard-setting activities; OIDEL was the principal speaker at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in March 2006; (e) statement by the Director General of OIDEL at an informal meeting on the Convention against Discrimination in Education, organized within the framework of the UNESCO General Conference (Paris, January 2007); (f) OIDEL organized, in collaboration with UNESCO, a thematic debate on "Overcoming Inequalities in Education: the Importance of Inclusion" (Geneva, December 2008). OIDEL has also carried out other activities: (a) participation in the work of the Joint Expert Group UNESCO(CR)/ECOSOC(CESCR) on the Monitoring of the Right to Education; (b) introduction of the report on educational freedoms in the world (2008), during the session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, June 2008).

Activities in the context of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Training programme in human rights with emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights. The overall goal of this training is to give participants the tools they need to implement human rights-based public policies so as to advance the MDGs. The programme closely monitors the evolution of economic, social and cultural rights in the United Nations. The faculty consists of experts from international organizations, university professors, diplomats and members of NGOs. The course is given in close cooperation with OHCHR, UNESCO and also the UNESCO chair

at the University of La Rioja and some 20 civil society and academic institutions, and allows participants to attend meetings of human rights bodies.

The aim is to give participants skills that will enable them to take a rights-based approach to public policy, to set up mechanisms for monitoring economic, social and cultural rights and to participate in the preparation of poverty reduction strategy papers and plans for universal education.

The programme focuses on the practice of mechanisms to safeguard human rights and is targeted primarily at human rights stakeholders (diplomats, civil servants, magistrates, members of NGOs, journalists, teachers and so forth). The training is given in small groups (25 participants per group), and consists not only of specialized training but also gets participants into a global network of human rights protectors.

The programme includes a distance learning portion and a two-week session in Geneva, consisting of two segments, one devoted to teaching economic, social and cultural rights, the other to monitoring international organizations, including the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies. The programme is made up of four teaching units — totalling 290 hours — and ends with a research segment. It is taught in French and in Spanish. Thus far, more than 1,000 people from 90 countries in five regions of the world have been trained.

5. Partage (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The principal mission is to help ease children's suffering. Partage was set up in 1973 to help children victims of the Vietnam War and it supports the work of experienced local associations (33 as of 2008) working to help children in 20 countries (90,000 people are beneficiaries). It seeks to develop the entire community around the child — taking all the latter's needs into account — and thus to facilitate the emergence of a civil society that will be proactive in its own development while, at the same time, respecting that society's cultural and social values.

Partage has opted for sponsorship (20,000 sponsors, 9,000 donors) in order to find a lasting solution to misery and poverty. The overall budget provided by the sponsors is enough to finance the programmes (in whole or in part) set up by the partners. The expenses are collective; they benefit all the children covered by the programme regardless of whether or not a child has a sponsor.

The modalities for the sponsorship are therefore carried out by local partners and follow five areas of action: education, health and nutrition, protection from abuse, community support and the culture of peace.

II. Contribution of Partage to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

In 1998, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 53/25 proclaiming the decade 2001-2010 "International Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World".

This resolution, which was initiated by Partage, invites Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and non-violence is taught at all levels in their respective societies, including in educational institutions. In 2000, this initiative was supported and taken up by the creation of national structures, including a French entity called Coordination française pour la Décennie.

Partage pledged from the start to support the establishment and operation of Coordination française pour la Décennie. The latter's aim is to raise awareness among the public and among relevant agencies and to set up the framework for non-violence and peace education.

This entity has gathered together a number of associations — of which Partage is one, as is Génération médiateurs which teaches peer mediation in the schools — and is calling for the official introduction of non-violence and peace education at all levels throughout the French educational system.

Partage has attended the following events: (a) 61st Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information and held at UNESCO headquarters (Paris, September 2008); three representatives of Partage attended — one of them, Christian Renoux, Vice President, moderated a workshop on peace and non-violence education and human rights education; (b) the Peace Initiatives Fairs sponsored by the United Nations and UNESCO and held at the Centre des congrès, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie (Paris, June 2006 and June 2008).

Coordination française pour la Décennie organized the second and third Peace Initiatives Fairs as part of the International Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. Partage supported both events and had its own booth.

In 2006, two representatives of Partage's partners testified about a problem related to the culture of non-violence: Ms. Stella Tamang, Director of Bikalpa in Nepal, and Mr. Sri Loganathan, Director of Association for Seva Serva Farms (ASSEFA), a major association that Partage supports in the State of Tamil Nadu, India.

Ms. Stella Tamang was nominated with her nine Nepalese colleagues for the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2005, and Mr. Sri Loganathan, a follower of Ghandi, introduced the notion of non-violence into all the schools of his NGO, one of the largest in India. The associations that they represent play a major role in disseminating and promulgating the idea of a culture of peace in their respective countries.

- Peace camps for young girls in Asia and/or Nepal in 2006, 2007 and 2008 organized by Bikalpa and financed by Partage.

- Forum for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of Nepal, in September 2007, financed by Partage. Thirteen agencies participated including the Ministry of Education and Sports of Nepal, UNESCO and three of Partage's Nepalese partners, namely, Bikalpa, Child Wataraban Center and Voice of Children.

Support for the Millennium Development Goals

All the partners work with needy children in their community to provide: education for girls and boys, care for children with disabilities, meals, access to care, tritherapy treatment, and to reintegrate street children and combat abuse.

As regards the latter, one of Partage's partners in Thailand, the Center for Protection of Children's Rights Foundation (CPCR), is setting up preventive programmes to deal with abuse and sexual abuse. These programmes are applied in the schools and within the family. In 2009, Mr. Sanphasit Koompraphant, Director of CPCR, was elected to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for a four-year term.

To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women: all our partners work to ensure that girls go to school as well as boys. In Upper Egypt, for example, the Association de la Haute Egypte pour l'éducation et le développement (AHEED) is struggling to provide schooling for the children of the poorest families, particularly girls, whose literacy rate is very low. Partage is supporting 8 of the 36 schools (3,000 children). AHEED has set up 19 parallel schools to meet the needs of the children, some of whom have to go to work. After four to six years in such parallel schools, the students have completed their primary education. Five such schools receive assistance from Partage. Awareness-raising meetings are organized in order to explain the importance of educating girls and combating early marriage.

Other measures are being taken to help young girls: The literacy programme known as "learn and be free" has 170 students 64 per cent of whom are women. Likewise, the personnel development programme which covers 449 young girls and women seeks to provide training (sewing, leather work, bread-making and so forth) and to raise awareness of women's rights and to develop their skills. AHEED is also planning a mother and child programme for 425 young women and 205 children under the age of two years to, on the one hand, provide them with medical and nutritional care and, on the other, teach them about sexuality, the human body and contraception.

Most of the partners that Partage supports have programmes that cover all these activities and, in 2008, a network of the various skills acquired by the partners in specific areas was set up and supported on a special blog called Lamako.